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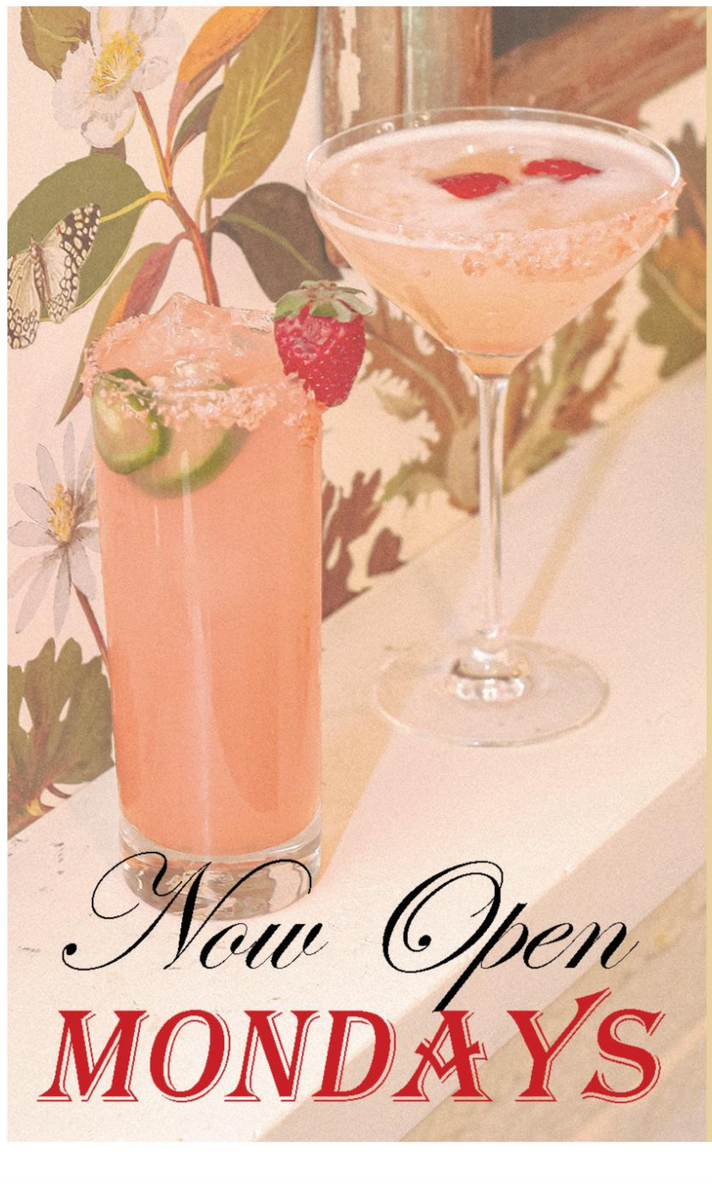
GIDDY UP...

CAMPERS ATTEND 'WONDER JUNCTION'-THEMED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

— PAGE 10 —

PHOTO OF CAMPERS PETTING A MINIATURE PONY OUTSIDE CONVERGE BY FRANCESCA SAGALA



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Village Council approves short-term rentals application policies, fees

BY THERESE DONNELLY

Short-term rentals in the Village of Three Oaks will see changes, with new application policies and fees going into effect.

During their June 11 meeting, the Three Oaks Village Council approved a new application process that includes a software to establish an automatic waiting list for open licenses.

The software agreement includes a contract to pay iWorQ Systems Inc. $2800 per year, plus a one-time $900 fee. Councilmember Lois Jones expressed hesitation at the costs, but Councilmember Becky Thomas said the software eliminated human error and kept the process fair, eliminating the potential cost of a lawsuit over claims of misadministration.

The software additionally will cross-reference application addresses with rental websites to help catch property owners offering rentals before they receive an inspection and license from the village.

Thomas said the software demo the short-term rental committee saw was "impressive" and the software would take work off the village staff.

Costs for short-term licenses will increase from $650 to $900 as part of the new process. The increased fees will cover the costs of the new software and enforcement.

The village recently earned Essentials certification from the Redevelopment Ready Communities, an organization that helps communities attract and retain businesses by developing planning, zoning and economic development policies.

During the June meeting, Village President Steve Graziano accepted a plaque recognizing the village's status.

The council tabled a resolution to give the village manager discretion to make decisions regarding Flag Day events.

As work on the wastewater treatment ponds progresses, the council approved a $460,692.92 to Oselka Construction. Project manager Andrew Rudd, from Wightman Engineers said work on the second pond is nearly complete.

Tax entities in Michigan are required to hold Truth in Taxation hearings before levying a tax millage. The council set their hearing for June 18 at 5 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Board has plans to plant three shade trees in Watkins Park near the TimberTown playground. The village was unable to obtain a second contractor bid for repairs at the park and the council agreed to split the work into multiple smaller projects to hopefully find bids.

The council approved up to $2700 for the trees. There are additional plans to pave the walkway at Carver Park between the pavilion and Oak Street at an estimated cost of $2500. Councilmember Jason Niemzyk said the paving will help with ADA accessibility and the Public Works Department can perform the work.

Residents on Beech Street received permission to closes off a portion of their street for a block party. Alcohol will not be permitted on the street.

From vacation to slammer for marijuana dispensary customer

A man spent part of his vacation behind bars after being caught just inside the Indiana border with a large amount of marijuana products bought from a dispensary in New Buffalo Township.

Brendan Moriarty, 39, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with Level 6 felony possession of marijuana.

According to La Porte County Police, the man on Monday, June 16, was clocked traveling 25 miles per hour above the 30-mph speed limit on Meer Road south of U.S. 12 just outside the corporate boundaries of Michigan City.

During a traffic stop, police said the officer detected an odor of raw marijuana coming from the SUV.

Moriarty allegedly confessed to having marijuana, which is legal to purchase in Michigan but remains against the law in Indiana.

He told the officer "It's a large amount. I mean, I'm here on vacation," according to police.

Police said a search of the vehicle turned up a tote bag from a dispensary along U.S. 12 containing four bags of marijuana, 74 THC vape cartridges and six packages of THC gummies.

The Lafayette, Indiana, man was taken to the La Porte County Jail and released the next day after posting $750 bond.

He could face anywhere from a six month to 30-month prison sentence.

— STAN MADDUX

If you want the most out of your day, adorn your soul head to toe in Designer. If you really want to have Fun, however, adorn the soul in rags.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

City Council approves budget amendments, millage rate

BY THERESE DONNELLY

As the fiscal year comes to an end, the New Buffalo City Council approved amendments to the budget in order to reflect actual expenditures.

At the council's June 16 meeting, City Manager Darwin Watson explained the amendments are necessary to comply with the State of Michigan Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, which establishes how Michigan municipalities balance budgets and report financial information.

The council also approved a new millage rate for the 2026 fiscal year. City Clerk Amy Fidler told the council that Berrien County had discovered a clerical error in the previously approved rates. The new rate, approved at the June meeting, rescinds the rates adopted at the May 19 council meeting, and corrects the upcoming rates.

In 2022, the city entered a three-year agreement with the law firm Dickinson and Wright to provide legal counsel. Watson told the council that Dickinson and Wright had communicated that they will be unable to continue services when the current agreement ends in July. They recommended the firm of Bloom Sluggett to represent the city instead.

Andy Gordon of Bloom Sluggett told the council his Grand Rapids-based firm focuses on representing municipalities in western Michigan.

The council approved a three-year agreement at a rate of $250 per hour, and authorized Watson to sign documents related to the agreement.

In order to correct a paperwork error, the council approved a reclassification for a liquor license at 700 E Buffalo St for DMW 11, LLC. Watson said an error in the application for a tavern license needed to be corrected in order for the owners to move forward with their plans. The council approved a reclassification to a Class C license, which allows for on-premises consumption of alcohol.

On the advice of the Planning Commission, the council approved a site plan for Nida and Heinrich Martens to build a single-family dwelling at 214 W. Merchant Street.

The council approved the purchase of a paint machine for the Streets Department but tabled indefinitely the purchase of signposts for parking information signs.

Councilmember Mark Robertson said he wanted to wait until the council had a comprehensive plan for downtown parking before making the purchase.

The city recently introduced paid parking in the downtown but has met criticism from business owners and residents. They have held meetings on the subject to address possible changes.

On Watson's recommendation, the council approved a memorandum of understanding with the New Buffalo Recreation Authority to help finance a project to upgrade facilities at Oselka Park.

Watson said NBRA had been approved for a grant to pay for work. Under the terms of the memorandum, the city will pay for related expenditures, then be paid back from the grant.

Councilmember Rich Knoll asked for assurance that there is a written agreement to pay back the money, which Watson confirmed both parties will sign an agreement.

The council approved the motion 4-1, with Robertson dissenting.

The city will apply for its own grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. The grant program focuses on improving safety along roadways through sidewalk improvements and safety demonstrations. Watson said the grant could pay for a street study.

Robertson expressed concern committing to the grant would make the city obliged to make modifications to the streets, such as a road diet, reducing lanes on US 12. Robertson has opposed previous efforts by the county to reduce lanes, citing concerns about congestion.

The council had a first reading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 1, Section 1-6and Chapter 2, Article I, Sections 2-1 and 2-2, and repeal Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2-5 of the Code of Ordinances. Watson said the amendment clarifies how municipal and civil infractions are enforced.

Dan Petersen of the Pokagon Fund informed the council that TPF and Waters Edge United Methodist Church are hosting a community meal at the church Wednesdays through September from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Petersen said the meal is free to anyone, and donations will be accepted.

The council went into closed session to discuss their recent job evaluation of Watson. When they resumed open session after about half an hour, no action was required on their closed session discussion.

The council periodically evaluates the city manager's job performance as part of its contract.

Responding to questions from resident Nora Howe, Mayor Vance Price said the council will reconsider the leaf pickup policy.

There is a special meeting scheduled for June 24 at 6 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center, with council from Chikaming, New Buffalo Township, Three Oaks Township and the Village of Three Oaks to discuss combining fire services.

I can't stand it to think my life is going so fast and I'm not really living it.
— Ernest Hemingway

REPOSSESSED VEHICLE BREAKS FREE FROM IMPOUND YARD

A woman is suspected of having her repossessed vehicle taken from a northern La Porte County impound yard with help from a man crashing the SUV through the locked gate.

According to La Porte County Police, video from a security camera shows a man climbing over the fence at the impound yard near Rolling Prairie early Saturday, June 14 and getting into the 2024 Mitsubishi sport utility vehicle.

Police said the video also shows the SUV with hits headlights on crashing into the gate, backing up and crashing into it again.

The gate secured with a chain and padlock busted open the second time it was rammed and the vehicle fled.

Police said the SUV was detected by a license plate reading flock camera entering St. Joseph County on Indiana 2.

The vehicle was repossessed in South Bend.

Police said the investigation shows the owner is suspected of having the man with tattoos on his neck take back the vehicle for her because she still had the keys to give him and made recent contact with the impound yard about.

No arrests have been made but the La Porte County Prosecutor's Office was contacted as part of the ongoing investigation, police said. — STAN MADDUX

Township Board approves grant application for Safe Streets For All

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Township Board of Trustees adopted a resolution that authorizes a Safe Streets For All grant application to the USDOT to support roadway safety and improvements at their Monday, June 16, meeting.

Per the Department of Transportation's website, the SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the competitive grant program with $5 billion in appropriated funds over five years, from 2022 to 2026.

Funding is provided for two main types of grants: Planning and Demonstration Grants for Action Plans, including supplemental safety planning and/or safety demonstration activities, and Implementation Grants.

Eric Neagu, managing principal of Antero Group, said the idea behind the program is for a municipality to do an action plan, which would make it eligible for federal dollars for implementation.

"The Federal Highway Authority got lots of applications for projects that were poorly thought through and then they came up with this protocol which is basically saying, 'We do want to fund your projects, but we want to make sure you thought it through," he said.

A couple public meetings are also required.

Supervisor Michelle Heit said that the grant could be helpful in implementing the future nonmotorized path on Harbor Country Drive.

The township could find out about receiving the grant within four to six months, Neagu said.

Fire chief Jamie Flick gave a presentation on Community Connect, which is a program that works in conjunction with the township's report writing system.

The program allows community members to log in and give the fire department information about their home, residents who live there and contact information, as well as to apply for burn permits.

The fire department signed up with a state program, where personnel go into a home or business and physically install smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors. When residents fill out the burn permit or smoke alarm portion on Community Connect, an email will be sent, and a team will take care of the installation.

Flick said that the program also allows him to send out mass emails to everyone alerting residents to situations such as storm damage, or a mass blast that will alert them to upcoming events.

Board members approved 2024-2025 budget amendments and adopted the 2025 Budget and Millages Resolution, which sets the general operation millage at .3696 mil, the park millage at .3558 mil and the Public Safety Special Assessment at 2.1 mills. Heit said that the general operation and park millages have rolled back some due to the Headlee Rollback.

A resolution establishing the supervisor, clerk and treasurer's salaries at $59,000 for the fiscal year 2025-2026 beginning July 1 was adopted.

Board members approved a 3 percent increase for full time employees, to set the firefighters' training wage to $18 an hour and a step increase for the building assistant's hourly pay to $26.31 effective July 1.

A quote from artist Josh Andres for $40,000 for a metal globe, $12,000 for metal lettering $12,500 for the branches of service plaques and payment of halfdown for the future Veteran's Park was approved.

Heit said that renderings of the proposed park will be presented possibly at an open house in July at the New Buffalo American Legion Post 169 and that there'll hopefully be a ribbon-cutting for it on Veteran's Day.

She added that the project is going out for bid soon. Heit said hopefully they'll have one in July.

A resolution that appoints Jacob Jakubowski, the building and zoning administrator and fire chief and fire inspector, Berrien County Sheriff's Office and its employees or designees, Michigan State Police and its employees or designees and the Tribal Police as ordinance enforcement officers with duties and authorities set forth in Chapter 36 of the Township Code of Ordinances.

A seventh pay estimate of $154,334.25 to PayJay Inc. for the U.S. 12 utility extension project was approved.

Final approval of an SLU to Michigan Pure Green LLC to operate an adult-use marijuana retail establishment at 19215 U.S. 12 was approved.

The establishment won't get its business license until lighting and signage has been approved by the zoning department and they've given payment to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office to replace a flock camera, which was taken down within the road right-of-way after curbing and asphalt was done by contractors.

Board members approved postponing granting final approval of an SLU to HODAI Bangor, LLC to operate an adult-use marijuana retail establishment at 19333 M-239 until widening of the road, which will be restriped and is required by MDOT, in the driveway of Wilson Road is completed and approved.

Chikaming Township Board hears presentation on sculpture donations

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board heard a proposal regarding the possibility of artwork appearing along the nonmotorized trail on Red Arrow Highway at their Thursday, June 12, meeting.

Township supervisor David Bunte said Barry Tinsley has proposed potentially donating some of his sculpture work to the township.

According to the Smithsonian American Art Museum's website, Tinsley is "well known for his large steel and concrete sculptures in museum, private, and corporate collections, including several works commissioned by Minneapolis-based Dayton Hudson Properties, now Target Corporation." Many of his sculptures are in the Midwest, especially Chicago.

Tinsley said he's done approximately 35-36 commissions for public spaces and for some private individuals.

He said he's "downsizing" his studio and would rather that several of his pieces be put in public spaces rather than destroyed.

"In talking with Dave, we were surmising that perhaps some of my pieces might work along the new pathway so that they could be enjoyed by bikers and people walking," Tinsley said.

Tinsley would like to offer two pieces to the township.

Bunte said that, in discussion with the Berrien County Road Department, the pieces would be within the road right of way and not on personal property, which would be incorporated into an agreement. The township has one regarding the trail and its maintenance.

The sculptures would be on the lakeside of the trail.

Trustee Rich Sullivan said he feels it would be a "disservice" if they didn't put a sample of the sculptures on the website to elicit public feedback.

Per Tinsley's proposal, Bunte said the township would incur the cost of having it delivered and the footings, or whatever else is needed, "based on what's selected and where it would need to go.

Trustee Arthur Anderson said that signs should be put up, which would indicate that the sculptures were donated.

Board members approved proceeding with the discussion with Tinsley on the donation, which would involve narrowing down which pieces and getting some public interaction, exploring possible sites and costs associated with placing them.

Board members approved change orders regarding the Harbert Park Improvement Project.

Bunte said the main changes are the addition of a handicap accessible walkway to Carl Sandburg Pavilion, which will be to the north of the pavilion connecting to the sidewalks; the removal of the old garage on the property and an entrance and storage garage door to the east end of the restroom facility building, with the connecting walkway to the path for accessibility to equipment and additional landscaping to fill in the open areas where the walkway will be put in.

Bunte added that the project also involves the reworking of the sewer connection to the restroom facility, as it was originally planned to incorporate a jack and bore system that would go under the roadway to connect to the sewer line on the other side of the nonmotorized trail on Red Arrow Highway. The township will now be able to tap into the sewer that remained from the old house on a nearby lot, with the addition of a grinder pump, that will help the township save costs from going under the highway. Bunte said that the project's engineering design will be presented next month.

Board members approved fire chief Allen Weich's request to participate in Leading High Performance Cultures Cohort.

Dr. Renee Thornton, the chief executive officer of Pathfinder Resilience and director of the Leading High Performance Cultures Project, said that the project is a "pioneering endeavor that brings together the most forward thinking public safety leaders in North America to create a playbook that has been validated scientifically that works as a tool for other public safety directors to build high performance workforce cultures."

The county's 911 director, who's one of the cohort's leaders, nominated Weich to participate in the project.

Thornton said that this year, there were 112 public safety leaders in North America who applied for the project and nine were interviewed, one of whom was Weich.

The cohort will visit Chikaming again to get to know Weich's team and continue to work with them virtually. Annually, they meet in person every fall on Mackinac Island.

Board members approved resident Connie Etter for the position on the Bridgman Library Board, Bunte said that Etter has been engaged and involved in the area since 2004 and attends local board meetings.

Board members approval the official hire of Natalie Bibb and Carson Taylor as full-time police officers. Police chief Todd Taylor said that they successfully completed the police academy.

Board members approved the official appointment of Ashley Munson as deputy treasurer. Treasurer Liz Rettig said that she was sworn in the position in March.

Bylaws for the Public Safety Committee were approved.

A fireworks permit request by Chikaming Country Club was approved.

Composer and educator Beth Bradfish joins School of American Music faculty

The School of American Music (SAM) is pleased to announce the addition of composer and teaching artist Beth Bradfish to its distinguished faculty as a piano and composition instructor.

Bradfish brings a wealth of creative experience and a deep commitment to music education that will enhance SAM's expanding curriculum in both composition and performance.

A trained composer with an accomplished career in both classical and experimental music, Bradfish is known for her innovative work in sound installations, collaborative composition, and voice instruction. Her approach emphasizes listening deeply, creating intuitively, and connecting through sound—values that align seamlessly with SAM's mission to make high-quality music education accessible and inspiring for students of all ages.

"Beth's presence will elevate our programs by introducing students to new ways of thinking about music and sound," said Heidi Smith, executive director of the School of American Music. "She is a remarkable artist and teacher whose passion for music and mentorship will be an incredible asset to our community.".

Bradfish's work has been featured at numerous festivals and venues across the country, and she has collaborated with composers, choreographers, and visual artists in projects that bridge disciplines and communities. For more information on Bradfish's work, please visit www.bethbradfish.com.

Enrollment for Bradfish's classes will begin this summer. For more information, visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com or call 269-409-1191. — STAFF REPORTS

Ribbon-cutting to officially open Red Arrow Trail from New Buffalo to Sawyer

A contingent of communities is pleased to announce the official opening of the Red Arrow Trail Friday, June 27.

Representatives from New Buffalo Township, Chikaming Township, Berrien County and Friends of Berrien County Trails will join the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. The event will take place at the Lakeside Park trail crossing, located at the corner of Lakeside Road and 14949 Red Arrow Highway, in Lakeside.

The 8-mile non-motorized paved pathway offers a route from New Buffalo to Sawyer, Michigan. They will also celebrate the reopening and completion of the three-lane Red Arrow Highway project, which runs alongside the trail.

Guest speakers include those who were instrumental in the initiation and successful completion of this project: Gary Wood (Friends of Berrien County Trails Board Member), David Bunte (Chikaming Township Supervisor), Michelle Heit (New Buffalo Township Supervisor), Mac Elliot (Chair – Berrien County Board of Commissioners), and Kevin Stack (Berrien County Road Department Project Engineer).

The construction of the Red Arrow Trail began in 2020, with four sections completed over five years. This new trail addresses the community's desire for nature and outdoor activities, offering a safe and enjoyable space for running, walking, biking, and rolling. It also enhances pedestrian and bicyclists' safety for those visiting local businesses and Lake Michigan beaches.

To further celebrate, the public is invited to "Celebrate Red Arrow Trail Day!" the next day on Saturday, June 28. Everyone is encouraged to explore the Red Arrow Trail and visit places along the way, who will be celebrating in their own unique ways. "Celebrate Red Arrow Trail Day" signs will be posted at each designated location with a QR code linked to a full list of participating businesses.

The Red Arrow Trail was made possible through the generous contributions of many sources, including Berrien County Road Department, Michigan Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternative Program, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant, The Pokagon Fund, Chikaming and New Buffalo Townships, the Dalmac Fund, Friends of Berrien County Trails and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission.

The Friends of Berrien County Trails continues to work towards connecting the Red Arrow Trail south to New Buffalo (linking to the Marquette Greenway) and north to Stevensville and beyond. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is currently designing the trail through Warren Dunes State Park to Floral Lane, and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is collaborating with the Berrien County Road Department to secure an MDOT TAP grant for a connection between Bridgman and Stevensville in 2026.

Their ultimate vision is to connect the Berrien County trail system to the northern Kal-Haven Trail at Van Buren State Park in South Haven.

For more information on these efforts and the Red Arrow Trail, visit www.berrientrails.org. — STAFF REPORTS

NEW SUMMER
DAILY HAPPY HOUR
3-5PM
BITES
$1 OYSTERS
Limit one dozen per person.
Valid with purchase of a beverage.
$10 SHRIMP & DIP TRIO
Shrimp with 3 Dipping Sauces:
Bang Bang Sauce, Cilantro Lime Crema, and Cocktail Sauce
½ PRICE FLAT BREADS
Classic Margarita, Mediterranean, Sausage & Giardiniera
SIPS
$8 SPRITZ O'CLOCK
Limoncello, Aperol Spritz, or Hugo Spritz
$16 SLUSHES & SANGRIA FLIGHT
Includes one white, one red, and two seasonal frozen beverages.
Valid in bar area only. Restrictions may apply.
SHELLEBRATE HOUR AT SONNY D'S
SONNY D's BAR & GRILL · NEW BUFFALO

Roosevelt Pipe Organ Concerts
WEDNESDAYS, AT NOON (CST) IN JUNE AND JULY
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
600 FRANKLIN ST., MICHIGAN CITY

Arrest in auto part store money scheme

BY STAN MADDUX

The manager of a La Porte auto parts store is accused of embezzling several thousand dollars from the company.

James Snyder, 25, is charged with La Porte Circuit Court with Level 6 felony theft.

Snyder appeared for his initial court hearing Wednesday with his attorney nearly a week after he was arrested and posted bond.

According to court documents, Snyder took more than $3,800 from Auto Zone at 310 E. Lincolnway over a six-month period.

Snyder printed two receipts on purchases.

Whenever merchandise was later returned, he'd give the receipt showing customer their money back then use his receipt to double dip on the refund, police said.

When confronted by an Auto Zone regional loss prevention manager, Snyder admitted to the allegations, according to court documents.

In a written statement to the store chain used as evidence submitted in the case, Snyder said he used the funds to stabilize his personal finances and support his family.

"I don't like doing it and don't want to, but I feel like I have to make ends meet. I've been trying to find a better paying job," he said.

LEGION TO HOST CAR CRUISE-IN NEXT WEEKEND

American Legion Post 169 will host a Cruise-in for Cancer fundraiser Saturday, June 28, to benefit local cancer patients.

The event will include live music from Classic Moments and Hired Hands, a corn and sausage roast and silent auction, with proceeds going to Pennies for Patients at Berrien County Cancer Service.

US-12 Speed and Custom is providing trophies and prizes for classic cars entered in the cruie-in.

The fundraiser will run from 1 to 7 p.m. For more information, contact Chuck Covert at charlescovert@rocketmail.com, or text 269-612-8023. — STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

The Edgar Willbury Experience to perform in New Buffalo

The Edgar Willbury Experience will be at Ghost Isle, Friday, June 20th.

The band Dead Orchard will open the show with a short half hour set at 6:15 pm and then the popular rock band from Southwest Michigan, will bring their 70's and 80's rock and roll sound to Ghost Isle in New Buffalo.

Joining the Willbury Experience will be keyboardist, Mark Francis, who played with them last year at Ghost Isle, which was an outdoor evening with lots of dancing.

Frontman Edgar Willbury said, "It's always a great time playing in New Buffalo in the summer."

"Music is powerful, and the vibe we get here is always great!"

This is the only stop at Ghost Isle for The Edgar Willbury Experience.

If you like music by, Tom Petty, David Bowie, Neil Young, Doors, Talking Heads, and Pink Floyd, you won't want to miss, The Edgar Willbury Experience. — **STAFF REPORTS**

Hikers to host 'Stewards of the Preserves' hike

A guided hike through the Merritt Family and Younger Family Preserves in Union Pier will take place during "Stewards of the Preserves," which will focus on the practice of land stewardship and its vital role in maintaining the natural integrity of local preserves, from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 21.

The Harbor Country Hikers hike will be led by David and Susan Eblen, longtime volunteers and official stewards with Chikaming Open Lands (COL). Participants will learn how stewardship practices help protect natural habitats and support ecological health over time. A brief presentation at the beginning of the event will outline stewardship efforts used in the preserves.

Together, the Merritt Family and Younger Family Preserves span 60 acres of forest and wetland. Though they may appear as one continuous forest, the land comprises two distinct ecosystems in various stages of regrowth: a mesic southern forest and a southern hardwood swamp.

This moderate-level hike will follow abandoned logging roads over approximately 1.5 miles. The total time for the hike is expected to be under two hours, with an estimated 15-minute presentation at the start. The terrain is uneven in places, and participants are encouraged to wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, a sun hat, and insect repellent. Water is essential, and some trail sections may be muddy depending on the weather.

Directions: From Red Arrow Highway, head east on Union Pier Road. After crossing Lakeside Road, continue on Elm Valley Road for half a mile. Turn left onto S. Mydra Road (the road sign is faded). The preserve entrance is about one-third of a mile up Mydra on the left. Parking is available along Mydra Road.

Please note: Harbor Country Hikers has a new website and email address. Visit us at harborcountryhikers.org and reach us at info@harborcountryhikers.org.

An All-Terrain Rollator is available to those with mobility needs and may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis through the form available at harborcountryhikers.org.

In the case of inclement weather, cancellation or rescheduling notices will be posted on www.harborcountryhikers.org and facebook.com/harborcountryhikers. — STAFF REPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

As I sit down to write this column, I'm basking in the warmth of another delightful Father's Day.

I've been a dad for quite a long time and while my kids have always been great, sometimes I've left a bit to be desired.

When my kids were born, I had no idea what to do. Thankfully, a wife who was way smarter than me and the ability of children to survive the mistakes that new parents make, allowed them to survive until they went to school.

While searching for answers on how to be a good dad, one thing remained consistent. The biggest thing that children need is love. While there are many different ways to raise children, being a strong disciplinarian or letting them make their own mistakes, if you love your kids you've given them a great start.

When school starts, parents have to give up some control as teachers and classmates begin to exert their influence. All kids are different, just as all parents are, and we as parents are once again not sure how to handle things. What we are sure of is that the school years will have a lot of triumphs, and a lot of disappointment.

This thing we call life is not linear. We can be in the dumps one day and on top of the world the next. Trying to balance academics and a social life while growing into young men and women is certainly challenging. As parents, we have to do our best to guide them through all the challenges they face, and we have to be sure they know they are loved.

In my case, both of my kids got married and started families and yet new challenges emerged in being a parent. The hardest part for me was having to begin that journey alone, as my better half passed away. Sue was only 49, the kids in their young twenty's, and all three of us had to learn how to negotiate the sadness and anger we all felt.

Fortunately for me, my wife had laid down a strong foundation and my children were more help to me than I was to them. We all eventually moved on, the kids had kids, I met a new woman, and we all worked together to get our lives back together. Believe me when I tell you it wasn't always easy, in fact it was darn difficult at times.

Back to Father's Day.

My first grandchild had her 23rd birthday last week, and a bunch of us got together Saturday for lunch. The food was delicious, but the thing that made it special was the love we all felt for each other.

So today, Father's Day, I reminisced all day and I can't ever remember having a nicer day. Thank you children, family, grandchildren, friends, and all the good people that have made me feel comfortable today.

The Beatles said that "All you need is love," and while it takes a little more than that, it's a great place to start.

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

PS: The Cubs beat the Pirates in extra innings. (this is a sports column after all).

Some of the worst mistakes in my life were haircuts. *— Jim Morrison*

First Asian longhorned tick in Michigan confirmed

BY STAN MADDUX

Michigan's first confirmed Asian longhorned tick native to East Asia was found near Stevensville.

As a result, owners of livestock and pets are asked to keep closer watch of their animals for the potential disease spreading blood suckers.

According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the species of tick was confirmed June 11 from test results of specimens collected at Grand Mere State Park.

The first ALHT confirmed in the U.S. in 2017 at New Jersey has spread to more than 20 other states in the eastern part of the nation, including some in the Midwest like Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

The concern about the potential impact on the health of animals, particularly cattle, is over the ability of the species to grow rapidly in population and totally infest an animal.

Female ALHT's can produce without a mate and lay up to 2,000 eggs at a time, MDARD said.

Large infestations of the tick have been known to form on an animal, causing stress, reduced growth and production along with death from blood loss.

The ALHT is also capable of causing tickborne diseases affecting human and animals. According to MDARD.

"By knowing this species of tick is in our state, we will increase our educational outreach to producers, animal owners and animal health professionals so we can all do our part to safeguard animal and public health, said State Veterinarian Dr. Nora Wineland.

According to MDARD, tracking of the tick will also occur now in other parts of the state with help from academic partners, local health departments and other state and federal agencies.

Female ALHT's about the size of a sesame seed or smaller are light brown in color and can grow to about the size of a pea when full of blood.

ALHT's have also been found on other animals such as goats, sheep, horses, chickens, dogs and cats.

The ticks collected in other parts of the country have been found to carry a pathogen that causes bovine theileriosis.

According to USDA, signs of bovine theileriosis infection ranges from weakness, loss of appetite and difficulty breathing to reduced milk production and abortion.

MDARD is recommending animal owners to contact their veterinarians about performing regular tick treatments.

Other preventative measures include checking for ticks around the eyes, ears, limbs, tail and toes.

Any ticks should be removed as quickly as possible.

According to MDARD, owners should also keep tall grass in pastures and lawns trimmed back or mowed along buildings and property edges.

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Campers attend 'Wonder Junction'-themed vacation Bible school

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A pony and two miniature donkeys greeted campers at their first day at Converge Community Church's Vacation Bible School in New Buffalo Monday, June 16.

Susan Balling, one of the adult leaders who volunteers with the camp, said that Duane Forker and his family from Galien brought out the animals.

"As the kids were arriving with their parents, they could come out and pet them and see them," she said.

This year's weeklong camp had the theme "Wonder Junction: Marvel at Jesus for His Glory," with a country Western theme thrown in.

"They're going through the wonder of Jesus coming to be with us as a baby and the savior that He is for us - they go through a different aspect of that every day of the week," Cara Bettig, the camp director, said.

Every day, the campers are engaged in different activities that correlate to an aspect of Jesus' life: the "wonder of Him being a baby and coming to us," his death and resurrection, and his second coming on the last day, Bettig said.

This is the second year that Converge is putting on the Bible school. The camp, which is free, had 70 children this year. Campers are in fifth through eighth grade.

"We just wanted to have a ministry for the community - we got some of the church kids that are coming but there's been some other kids outside church that are able to come," Bettig, who plans for the camp year-round, said.

Bettig said they use a curriculum, "Answers in Genesis," that's used in the church's ministry for summer camps for migrant workers in the area.

"I really like their curriculum and the truth and the gospel that's being presented – it's not just fluff, it's the truth that we're sinful people and we need a savior, and we have one and we have a future hope for eternity," she said.

In addition to the campers, there were also 60 volunteers. Some of them were high school students, who were living the camp experience while assisting the adult leaders.

"So, they also get to do the fun things but they're helping to learn how to shepherd the kids and be in a servant role," Balling said.

A 16-year-old who will be a junior this year, Kendra Klint said that she's pleased she got to help the older campers this year.

"They ask the hard questions and are really curious to know more about the truth and what that is and what life is about and what matters in life," she said.

Klint said she's learned from the campers, too.

"I want to grow my faith too in their questions but to also be with them and spend time with them," she said.

Campers are engaged in a Nativity craft

Campers work off their energy outside

Campers learn about Jesus' birth at an interactive storytime

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To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

IS YOUR CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON

Imagine holding a deck of cards in your hands. One card is your children, one is your spouse, one is your job, one is your volunteer work that you do. One is your garden or hobbies; one is your home caretaking. You get what I am saying. Each card represents a responsibility or activity in your life. When you add these all up, how many cards are you left holding. Most people are out very quickly. This can lead to the burnout that so many people know too well.

When symptoms appear regularly in your body like headaches, digestive issues, chronic pain, infections, anxiety and so on, it is like the check engine light in your car. Your body is warning you that something is wrong. If you do not address these health issues, just like your car engine, the outcome will not be good.

It is our responsibility to tune into these signs in our bodyand keep our health in check. If you are out of the deck of cards in your hand, you are probably exhibiting more than one symptom setting off your check engine light. Ask yourself, "what can I get rid of that is taxing my health?" If you don't choose now, your health will choose it for you sooner or later.

You may not like the answer, but your health depends on it. If you work full time, have children, bake cookies for the soccer team, and volunteer at school, then there is not enough time left for you to take care of yourself. Period. When you are on an airplane and there is an emergency, the masks that come down give you instructions to put your mask on first before attempting anyone else's. Why!? If you are dead, you certainly can't help your children or others.

Make a list of your daily responsibilities, then write down what you do for yourself. When I have patients make this list, they are shocked. You have to put it on paper to make this work. Find time in your day that you could plan on your own health and wellbeing. Maybe get some books on a whole food plant-based diet. Start cooking at home. It seems like a lot more work, but it really is less when you consider the health gain. Eating out regularly probably consists of some fast food and highly processed foods. Just ridding this alone can reduce stress, blood pressure, blood sugar and save you tons of money.

Spend less time on social media and more time with people personally, playing games with the family instead of on the phone. Get involved in an exercise program or walking instead of watching TV. Put down any responsibility or activity that isn't serving you or your familyin a positive way, or that is taking you away from them. Reduce stress where you can and watch your body respond to better health, more energy and greater joy.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

RUTH AUSTEMA TO BE FEATURED AT ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Guests can enjoy an hour of the relaxing sounds of pipe organ music, by one of the region's foremost musicians, with the continuation of the 25th season of the historic Roosevelt Organ concert series on Wednesday June 25, with a performance by Ruth Ausema at 12:15 p.m. CST.

This concert will feature the historic 1933 Austin organ of Trinity Episcopal Church.

Storms of last fall and this spring damaged the roof of Christ Church's historic structure, causing unsafe conditions for the concert series to continue at that location. The organ series will continue this summer at Trinity Episcopal Church, which is located just a block away at 600 Franklin Street.

Ausema received her B.M.E. from Cedarville University, with organ as her primary instrument. After 17 years being away from teaching and playing, Ausema returned and has been an elementary music educator for 12 years. In 2018, she earned her M.M.E. from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. She recently completed her seventh year with the Valparaiso Community Schools, during which she also taught an elementary education fine arts class at Valparaiso University in the education department. In her own classroom, she provided a hands-on organ experience for fifth graders using the Orgelkids kit in collaboration with the STEM teacher.

Ausema began playing the organ again in 2016 while working on her master's degree, taking lessons at Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago with Dr. John Sherer. Encouragement in playing led her to rejoin the AGO and to begin substituting in northwest Indiana on a regular basis. Ausema has now been the organist at Chesterton United Methodist since 2020.

A reception with light snacks and tours of the historic church building follows each concert in the Wednesday organ series.

For questions or further information, contact Bill Halliar at William.halliar@gmail.com or call him at 219-629-5853. — STAFF REPORTS

Charges in heavy handed treatment of infants in daycare

BY STAN MADDUX

A worker at a Michigan City daycare facility could face prison time for the injuries and rough treatment inflicted on two babies.

Aniya Dabney, 21, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with six Level 5 felony counts of battery and Level 6 felony obstruction of justice.

According to court documents, the allegations involving both infants occurred on May 1 at Tt's Daycare in the 200 block of N. Carroll Ave.

Police became involved when a man after picking up his 12-month-old son from the center discovered significant bruising and marks on his buttocks, both legs and an arm.

According to court documents, surveillance video police obtained from the daycare facility shows Dabney grabbing a back scratcher off the wall and going into a room where the boy was located.

The video also contains the sound of something soon being struck multiple times and the boy screaming, police said.

Police said there's also video showing Dabney holding the back scratcher after leaving the room and threatening to hit the boy heard crying in the background some more.

That same day, police said Dabney was captured on video doing things at the daycare center like dragging a five-month girl across the floor by the leg and picking her up off the floor by the collar of her onesie.

Police said the video images also include Dabney dropping the girl several times onto a large cushion on the floor hard enough sometimes to cause her head to bounce.

Dabney of La Porte taken into custody Monday was being held in the La Porte County Jail on $15,000 bond.

Brawl over religion leads to arrest at Matey's

BY STAN MADDUX

A dispute over religion at a bar at Michigan City's lakefront exploded into several people fighting along with an arrest.

Blake Schoiber, 24, of Michigan City was being held in the La Porte County Jail on $755 bond after the early Tuesday brawl.

According to police, several customers at Matey's told officers a verbally aggressive Schoiber had been wanting to fight several people disagreeing with his belief in Jesus.

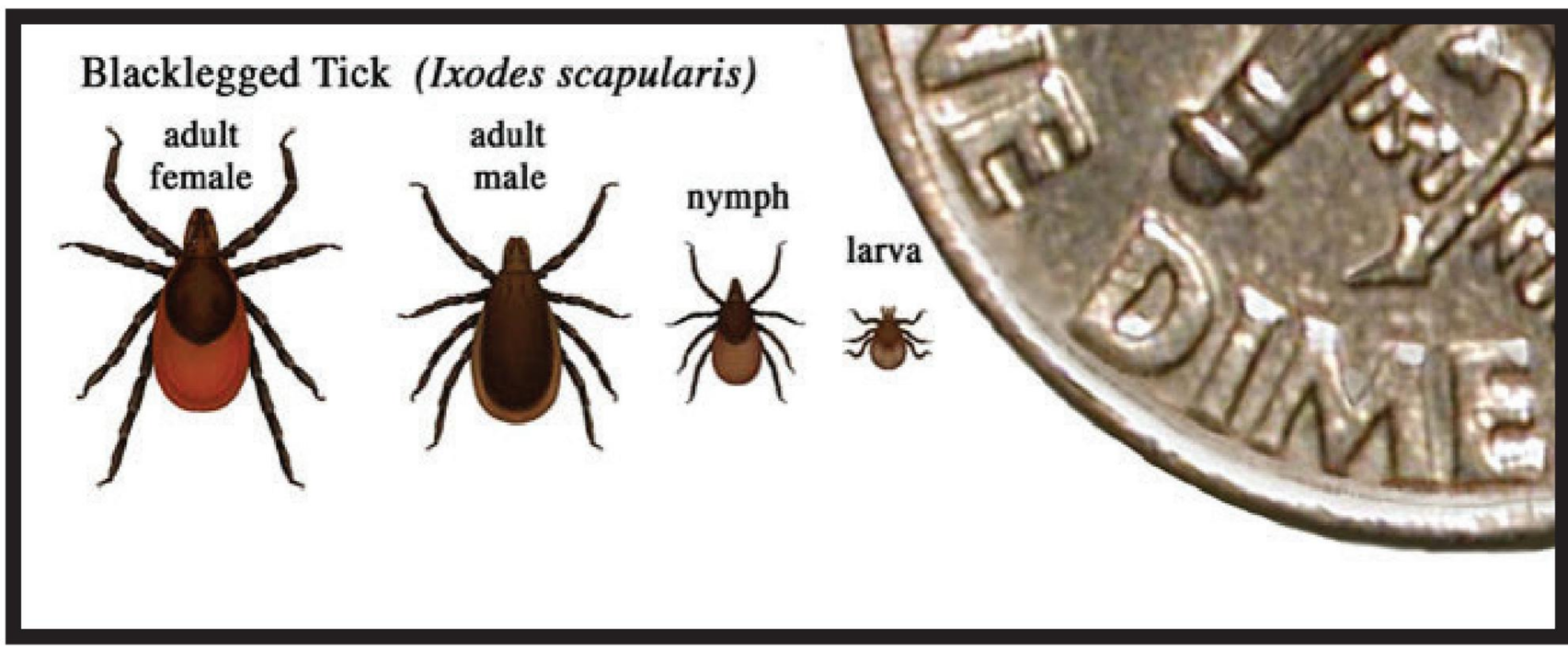
When customers were informed the bar was closing for the night, Schoiber exchanged heated words with the bartender and was escorted outside where he began peddling away on a bicycle, police said.

However, police said the investigation indicates Schoiber hopped off the two-wheeler and walked over to people in the parking lot, asking "who wants some."

There were punches landed and, when officers arrived, Schroiber had a man in a headlock, police said.

Police said Schroiber was also very combative toward officers forcing them to place restraints around his wrists and ankles.

He was booked on charges of battery to a public safety official and other counts like disorderly conduct and public intoxication.



A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

Change of plans...

I'm tired, but I'm feeling good. I would never, ever tell anyone in the industry I was tired. Everyone's tired, all the time. We all work hard, all the time. To say one is tired is stating the obvious. Worse, it can show weakness.

On the other hand, I think it's fine to say I'm feeling good. I have a lot to feel good about. I'm on staff. I havea great salary. I got a promotion within the blink of an eye. I've proven my initial worth as a player in the game. And I've been elevated from a cubicle to an office. Who wouldn't feel good?

So as Lori, carrying a manilla envelope, intercepted me heading for DIC's front doors and asked, "How are you doing?", I answered, "Feeling good, Lori." When I added, "I'm heading to the library to do some research", she brought me to a stop by saying, "No you're not."

One thing I'd learned about the entertainment business is it's fluid, ever-changing and, like quicksilver, impossible to catch. If you're smart, you don't even try. You just adapt and go with the flow.

When I asked, "Where am I going?", Lori allowed a smile.

She said, "Home." She handed me the manilla envelope. "Jean approved two of your Care Bears springboards. Start writing the treatments."

I blurted, "You got it" and opened the front door. But before I could walk outside she said, "You get twelve hundred and fifty dollars for each script."

My knees went weak.

As I strode along Ventura Boulevard this evening, I thought about how it hardly occurred to me that once I was on staff I would not only be paid to story edit other writers' script for a series, but I'd also be encouraged to write episodes myself...and get paid for them.

This wasn't how the industry usually worked. Years later, when Robby London would come on as DIC's VP, Creative Affairs, he bristled at staff writers being paid to write episodes. He said while he was at Filmation, writing scripts pro bono was expected.

It made sense that if you were a paid staff writer, scriptwriting was a part of the job. Even if you wrote scripts while you were home, off the clock, to be paid a script fee on top of one's salary, I felt, would be like double dipping.

Jean and Andy disagreed. Their policy was that if you wrote a script while on staff as a story editor you would be paid for it. Not only that, you would be well paid for it. Writing scripts while you were physically in the studio, rather than after work, at home, was a gray area. But while it wasn't overtly condoned, as long as you were current on your delivery schedule, everyone looked the other way if you were writing a script while in the office.

Still, I decided to keep the small rules. So I worked on my Care Bears treatments when I got home that night.

Sometimes a change of plans is a good thing...

HOROSCOPE

JUNE 19-25, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Strong emotions are on the horizon and you may get an unexpected message, call, or response from someone who has strong feelings about you. Expect someone to express a definite interest in what you do or have. New love may take you by storm and you may get an unsolicited passionate kiss.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Abortive attempts or delays are really working in your favor this week. New ideas or actions will replace old ones and something better will be established that could not have happened otherwise. Surrender that which is obsolete and let the Universe make the changes or resurrect the situation.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

You have a very fortunate week ahead of you. The trick is not to get caught up in other people's dramas and issues. It is important you stay neutral and not become involved in gossip and lose talk. Keep your mouth shut and only share your feelings with people who are not involved in intrigues.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Circumstances are going to change for the better. Don't try to force issues, but wait for things to change. This is not the time to assert yourself. If you try, you will lock horns with your peers but if you just sit tight, you will gain considerable help from others. Your success may seem small at first.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You are going to regain a sense of peace, clarity, or assurance about yourself or your position in life, and a phone call to a loved one or a call from a suitor will reinstate your relationship. You can also expect an offer of financial assistance or a gift of money at exactly the right time. People are listening.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

What is happening in your life will soon turn into something much better. This apparent havoc is actually the beginning of a new order which was destined to commence at this time and if events had not convened in just this way you'd still be stuck and miss this turn of fortune fate has in store for you.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Someone close to you may be stirring the pot and trying to push your buttons this week or include you in their assault on another. You will be caught off guard by this because you usually can tell if someone has ulterior motives and are normally not sucked into power struggles and games.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Even though finances are improving in some areas, you will still be worried about money on the whole; and in another area, you will have problems trying to collect money that is owed to you. When all is said and done, you will feel that things are just not worth the effort and will let it go.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

It may take a while but what was cut back or pruned will spring back up again. All things come in time and if you feel you have come to a dead end, it is because you lack the knowledge that only time and experience can acquire. Keep an optimistic attitude and let time be the deciding factor.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You will be trying to maintain an emotional equilibrium but will find it very difficult because all of your endeavors or plans will be going awry. Good will prevail and a positive change is in store. Narrow down your choices and maintain a sanguine attitude and balanced disposition.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

The focus will be on material aspects of life such as physical well-being or mortality and in-spite of the apparent feeling of failure or loss you will be offered something you wanted or the help you needed. Your ideas and feelings will be validated by someone who sees things the way you do.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You're going to have to go it alone for the time being, fighting your own battle in your own way and the past will provide nothing to lean on or sustain you. If you fall down, get back up and dust yourself off. Stay on purpose with your intention and with what you want. It is all on you and your will.

If you get tired, learn to rest, not to quit.
— Banksy

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	6	8						
4				1			5	
2					9		6	7
			9				7	1
	2	5					9	6
	9		7		2			
	1				7	8		
6					8			
	8						4	9

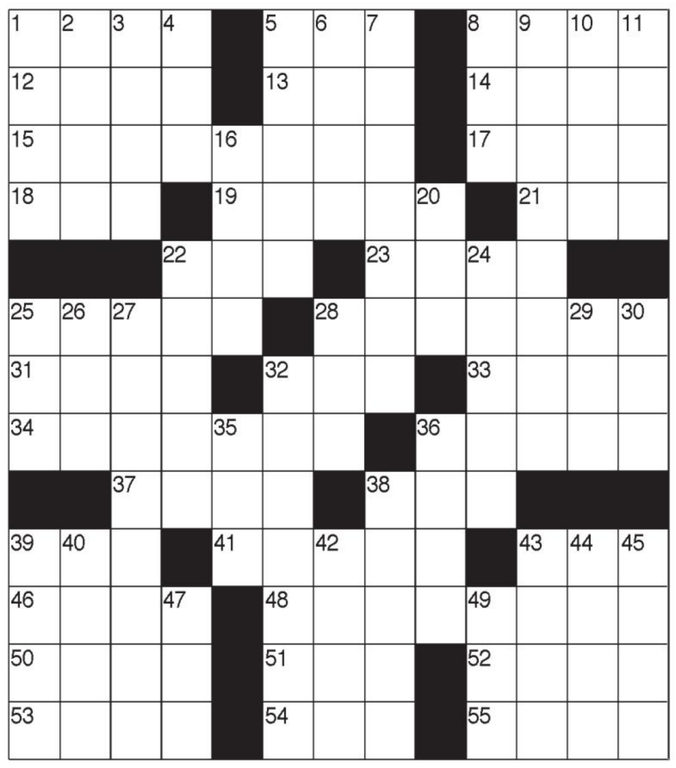
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Two-horse chariot
5 Accomplished
8 Brow of a hill (Scot.)
12 Norse giant
13 Adopted son of Mohammed
14 Consort of Siva
15 Got
17 Ship of the Argonauts
18 Spelling contest
19 Corset
21 Mulberry of India
22 Exclamation
23 Stone hammer
25 Heb. teacher
28 Brief
31 Monitor lizard
32 His (Fr.)
33 Range
34 Wine
36 Rom. author
37 "Dies ____"
38 Allow
39 Corporal (abbr.)
41 Refute
43 Afr. worm
46 Hole
48 Ram (2 words)
50 Russ. range
51 Yale student
52 Cubitus
53 Ten (pref.)
54 Bosh
55 Keg

DOWN

1 Bring your own bottle (abbr.)
2 Cordage fiber
3 Lodging place (Fr.)
4 Military macaw
5 S.A. tapir
6 Lower intestine
7 One of the Apostles
8 Jamaican dance music
9 4th incarnation of Vishnu
10 Sea lettuce
11 Biology (abbr.)
16 Yahi tribe survivor
20 "Casablanca" character
22 Saul's army leader
24 Blue color
25 Liquor
26 Orinoco tributary
27 Myth. lizard
28 Grasp
29 Kidney (pref.)
30 About so
32 Secret agent
35 Science class
36 Look narrowly
38 Lawful
39 Dressed
40 Wan
42 New sugarcane shoot
43 "Cavallera Rusticana" heroine
44 Possesses
45 Biblical giants
47 Inlet
49 Duke (Fr.)



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A Day in the Life

NIGHTMARES, DREAMS, AND OBSESSIONS...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

Nightmares, dreams, and Obsessions must be a result, in part, of old age. (Boring, Nice, or Weird?)

I almost always have nightly dreams and nightmares. I awake in the morning relieved to be out of some of the nightmares! Often it lasts a few minutes even after I am half awake. This morning the nightmare was about driving on a one lane road while traveling home from my sister and brother-in-laws in New Jersey; A long and arduous trip usually. I had borrowed the car of my brother in law's, a sluggish old beater and I don't really know why I borrowed his. The highway was only one lane through a mountain range and it was impossible to pass other cars if you were stuck behind slower cars for miles. Keeping the car on the road was almost impossible because it was so narrow and rugged. I awoke so relieved to be off that terrible road! I often wake but the dream continues while I am frantically trying to wake up out of the nightmare. Very strange! This morning's nightmare was about being on that awful road. (Semi interesting?)

Sometimes my nightmares are more complicated. Like with other people whether family or friends or sometimes even my deceased wife! She is always her sweet self. Often I am with her in a nice dream, not a nightmare, which is always pleasant. (Nice, but Boring?)

This morning I awoke knocking over the new designer clock off the nightstand that my brother gave me so that I know what day of the week it is. It lights up like a billboard with large letters and has the time, day of the week, month, and year. It's definitely for Seniors and it tells me all of those things and whether it is morning, noon, or night. I am trying to get myself oriented to the environment, so that when I awake from a dream I'll know where I am. It usually takes place in our house, but I can't figure out which house, we had several, or sometimes it's elsewhere but nevertheless still in a dream, but half way, and I can't figure where I am and struggle to remember who is with me. Nevertheless, it is sometimes gratifying because my dreams are not all ugly. At times I have pleasant conversations with my wife, which is strange but nice. I do wonder if I am having a real conversation with her in her afterlife, in heaven. (Weird but nice. Not too boring?)

The nightmares I'd rather not discuss! Though they are much more interesting. They run the gamut from scary and near death experiences to total reality! I occasionally awaken during a nightmare and I am so relieved to get back to niceness. I have my dog next to me and everything is fuzzy and warm. (Nice, Kind of Boring?)

I have a new obsession in what I eat for breakfast. It is Cinnamon rolls! They are the deluxe kind that you warm in the microwave to get the frosting soft and delicious. It's a disgusting habit that I don't want to change. That and my coffee is truly heaven. (Real nice, boring but fattening!)

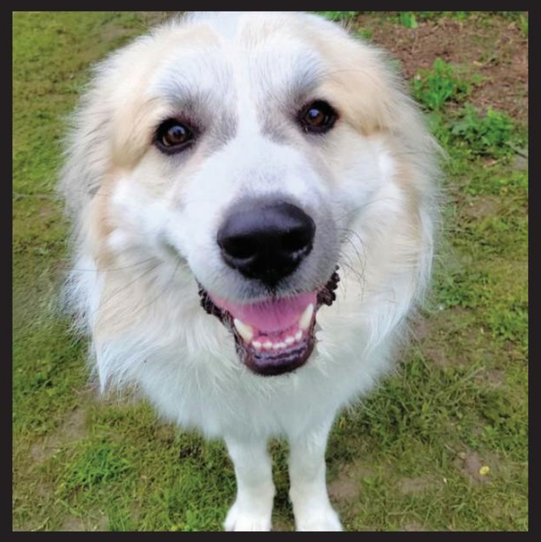
Another obsession is York mints. I cannot keep myself to eating only one. I scarf down three or four at a time. (Sick, Fattening,and Boring?)

Then another one is my new appetite for the Original V-8 juice! I hadn't had it for decades and all of a sudden I rediscovered it and I can hardly consume enough! I just love it and it's so healthy for me too, instead of diet Pepsi. (Real boring).

Another obsession is Ruffles potato chips with cheddar cheese. When I am grocery shopping and I pick up a bag I cannot keep from opening it and eating some immediately, before paying for them! (Super Ho Hum?)

So, here are a few of my incurable dreams, nightmares and obsessions. Now, if only I could get rid of a few of the bad ones! But, I share them all. (Boring. Boring, Boring?)

PET OF THE WEEK



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New Buffalo Times

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Business owners in New Buffalo revolt on paid parking plan

BY STAN MADDUX

Decision makers in New Buffalo could be backpedaling on plans to charge for parking in the lakefront community's downtown.

Business owners afraid of losing a lot of customers, especially during the busy summer tourist season, came out in droves to a town hall type meeting Thursday, June 12, at City Hall.

The meeting was called in response to their concerns since the city council's decision in May to install pay stations along Whittaker Street and other connecting thoroughfares.

The plans had not been finalized yet, but the intent was to likely charge $2 an hour to park beginning in August, said Mayor Vance Price.

Business owners fearing as much as a 30 percent or more loss in sales urged the plan be scrapped or paused for a year to try and come up with something more pleasing to both sides.

There were also threats of lawsuits by some business owners if the city goes ahead and imposes paid parking.

"I'm going to hire a lawyer if this goes down," said Kathy Kochs, owner of Sweetwater Boating Supplies at 38 N. Whittaker Street.

Kochs said she has worked too hard for a long time to lose the gradual increase in customers who've been coming into her store every year from charging a fee to park.

She also said paid parking sends an unwelcoming message in a community where many businesses rely on the sharp uptick in summer visitors for year-round survival.

The meeting was called in response to their concerns since the city council's decision in May to install pay stations along Whittaker Street and other connecting thoroughfares.

"We're not supposed to cover charge to come into our town," she said.

John Lustina, owner of the popular Beer Church, said he invested $4 million to turn an over 160-year-old former church at 24 S. Whittaker Street into a major local destination before issuing an ultimatum.

"If you put these meters in front of my business, we will be seeking reimbursement for all of the money we've spent in the last seven years," he said.

Initially, Price expressed doubt that people would stop coming to the city if they had to pay to park.

However, several local business owners, who reside in St. Joseph, claimed there's been a noticeable loss of customers in that lakefront community's downtown after pay to park there went into effect on May 1.

Just a few weeks later, pay to park hours in St. Joseph were changed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in response to complaints from the business community.

Pay to park there was also shortened from May 1 to Sept. 30 to Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day.

The decision to charge for parking comes at a time when the city is looking for additional revenue sources to offset the wear and tear on infrastructure, like streets, and other expenses from tourists coming into the city without asking property owners to shoulder the burden.

Business owners in New Buffalo strongly asked the city to start enforcing the current three-hour downtown parking limit and levy stiff fines to generate added revenue instead.

City Councilman Rich Knoll fired back, pointing out that many of their workers park in those spots and don't leave until after their shifts.

"Who are the tickets going to go to? Your employees," he said.

Another money raising idea expressed from the business community was to increase the fees for parking at the beach.

Maria Crawford, owner of Brewster's restaurant at 11 W. Merchant Street, said someone having to pay $2 to park to grab a $5 sandwich or cup of coffee might choose to simply drive away.

"That is unreasonable. There are other options the city can explore," she said.

Diane Pyshos, a member of the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, announced she's against charging a parking fee.

"For the first time in years, we have fully occupied storefronts. New Buffalo's main street success is no coincidence and can be easily destroyed by ill-timed interference," she said.

No vote was taken because it was not an official meeting of the city council, which has to be in formal session when deciding matters.

Toward the end, Price and Knoll seemed receptive to the business community's request to work together in exploring other options before moving forward on the pay parking plan.

Knoll went as far as promising to revisit the issue with his colleagues on the governing body.

"We'll talk this over," Knoll said.

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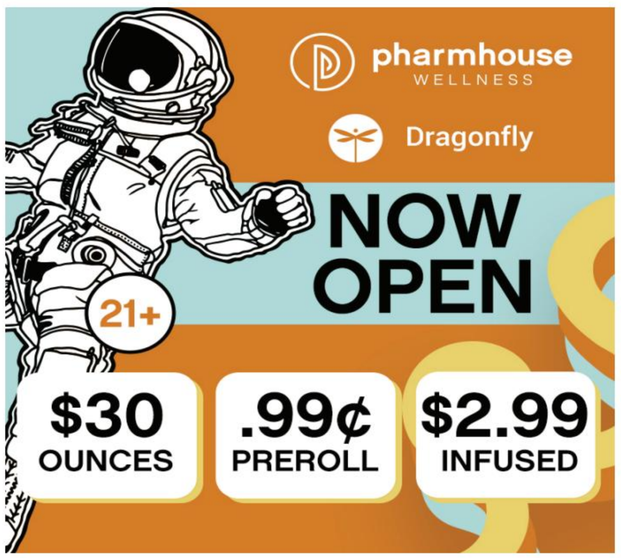

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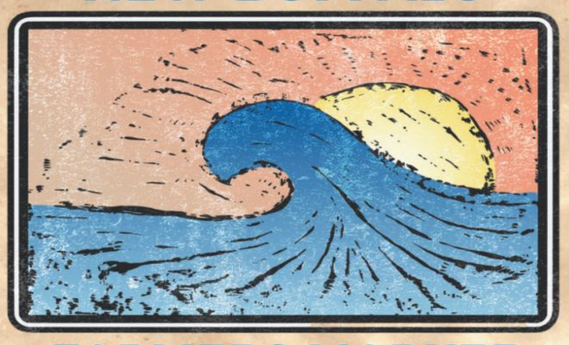

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